

## \$30,000.00 Grant from MLKF to construct a new building for an Orphanage in Lakshmipur, Bangladesh



Mary Lou Kalla Foundation, Inc. is proud to champion a brighter future for the orphaned and vulnerable tribal children in Lakshmipur, Bangladesh. With a grant of \$30,000, this project is transforming dreams into reality by supporting the construction of a tin-roofed building to house up to 50 orphaned tribal children.

Launched in January 2024, the orphanage is currently home to 13 children living in a small temporary settlement. The new building facility, situated beside St. Joseph's Primary School, will provide shelter, nourishment, education, and guidance for up to 50 children. This safe, nurturing environment will include two dormitories (separate for boys and girls), a study room, and a dining area—laying the foundation for holistic growth and development.

### Impact Beyond Measure

The project extends its influence beyond the orphanage walls. It uplifts not only the lives of the children but also the surrounding families and vulnerable communities. By offering education and stability, this initiative creates ripples of empowerment throughout the region.

Through your generous support, Mary Lou Kalla Foundation is helping transform lives.

Together, we're building more than an orphanage—we're building hope, resilience, and a brighter future for generations to come.

**Please join us in making a lasting impact on the orphaned children.**

Proposed orphanage building



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION**

**Tax Exempt: 501(c)3 Tax ID# 26-3925304**

**[www.maryloukallafoundation.org](http://www.maryloukallafoundation.org)**

**Donation is  
100%  
tax deductible**



# MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION, INC

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December 2024

## A Year of Gratitude, Impact, and Hope: Thank You for Your Support!

*Dear Friends of Mary Lou Kalla Foundation:*

*As we come to the close of another impactful year, We want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity. Your dedication and blessings have empowered the Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) to continue our mission to provide education and better economic opportunities to the underprivileged in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malawi in Africa.*

*It is a true joy to look back on the milestones we've achieved together. As a committed non-profit, MLKF has been at the forefront of the fight against illiteracy and other socioeconomic challenges. Our belief is simple but profound: education has the power to transform lives, and with your help, we've made that transformation possible for countless children and their communities.*

*This year, we proudly completed four major projects across the different communities in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malawi. Even more impressive, 99% of the funds MLKF received were funneled directly into these projects, while only 1% was used for essential operational costs like office expenses, newsletter printing, and postage. This means that your donations are truly making a difference, touching the lives of those who need it the most.*

*The numbers speak volumes: over 500 community members and 128 school children were direct beneficiaries of our projects this year. Yet, the true impact goes beyond figures—it lies in the stories of hope, resilience, and dreams renewed by the opportunities we've created together.*

*We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor, partner, and supporter who has walked this journey with us. Your kindness has been the backbone of our success, and together, we are a force for positive change, bringing light to some of the world's most underserved regions.*

*On behalf of everyone at the Mary Lou Kalla Foundation, We thank you for your enduring support. We look forward to another year of partnership with you as we continue to be a beacon of hope and create brighter tomorrows for those we serve around the world.*

## WARM HOLIDAY WISHES FROM MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION

Board Members of Mary Lou Kalla Foundation extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your family for a joyful, peaceful, and safe holiday season. May this time be filled with warmth, love, and cherished moments with those you hold dear.

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**Please make a charitable contribution and donate generously.**

MLKF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Tax ID: 26-3925304 • Your donation qualifies for a tax deduction.

**Connect with us on Facebook and visit us at [www.maryloukallafoundation.org](http://www.maryloukallafoundation.org)**



## Bringing Hope To a Remote Community Through Education \$2,000.00 grant to support teachers at St. Andre School in Diglakona, Bangladesh



Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is honored to support the transformation of lives by providing crucial funding to St. Andre School in Diglakona, Sherpur, Bangladesh. With a \$2,000 grant, MLKF is helping to partially fund the salaries of the dedicated teachers who are shaping the future of this remote community.

St. Andre School, situated in the scenic yet challenging hilly region bordering India in northern Bangladesh, serves as a vital resource for the indigenous Garo people. Every year, this region faces significant challenges as wild elephants cross from the border forests, damaging crops and leaving the already impoverished Garo community struggling to make ends meet. In such conditions, financing their children's education becomes nearly impossible, which makes St. Andre School a beacon of hope.

With 95 students enrolled and a team of 4 regular teachers and 5 substitutes, St. Andre School provides education from Grades 1 to 5. Despite limited resources, the commitment of these educators is unwavering—some even teach two classrooms simultaneously to ensure every child has access to learning. This dedication is critical for families

in nearby tribal villages, where daily life is a struggle. Parents, often working as day laborers, earn meager wages that are barely enough to feed their families. The financial support from the MLKF is a lifeline for St. Andre School. It ensures that teachers receive their salaries, enabling them to continue their vital work. With these committed educators in place, the students are given a rare chance to break free from the cycle of poverty. Education at St. Andre School not only changes individual lives but has a profound, lasting impact on the entire community.

The positive effects extend far beyond the classroom walls. Access to basic education provides these children with the tools they need for learning and help foster hope and aspirations for a better future, thus, creating opportunities for economic stability and healthier living conditions. Through the power of education, the seeds of change are planted, fostering a ripple effect that will benefit generations.

MLKF remains committed to supporting sustainable education initiatives, standing alongside communities like those in Diglakona, and playing a role in shaping a brighter future for all.



## Uplifting Lives with 3D Technology with a \$4,000.00 grant 20 children receive Prosthetic Limbs in Sri Lanka



Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is proud to continue its commitment to transforming lives through innovation. For several years, MLKF has maintained a strong partnership with the Colombo Friends in Need Society (CFINS) in Sri Lanka, focused on providing young children with prosthetic limbs. Traditionally, these prosthetics were custom-made from plaster to suit each child's needs. However, a groundbreaking shift took place last summer, thanks to the support of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Canada, in collaboration with CFINS.

MLKF alongside our dedicated partner (CFINS) has been instrumental in the foundational support for this initiative through our previous grants of more than \$10,000.00 to make the collaboration possible and bring this innovative

solution to life.

Last year, with the cutting-edge work of Nia Technologies, 3D technology was introduced to produce prosthetic limbs for the first time in Sri Lanka. As a result, 20 children received advanced, 3D-printed prosthetic limbs from our grant, opening up new possibilities for a brighter future.

These state-of-the-art prosthetics, crafted with precision, are a leap forward in both technology and care. The well-fitted limbs allow children to move with greater ease, giving them a newfound freedom and mobility that significantly improves their daily lives. The impact goes beyond the physical abilities—this initiative restores a sense of normalcy, confidence, and hope. Children can now attend school without the obstacles they once faced, broadening their opportunities and setting them on a path to a better future.

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation is honored to be part of this life-changing initiative. With each step forward, we are not only advancing technology but also making a profound difference in the lives of children and their communities in Sri Lanka. This partnership stands as a testament to our commitment to sustainable impact and the power of collaboration to bring about meaningful change.

## Growing a Brighter Future at Kachebere Farm, Malawi, Africa MLKF gives a grant of \$2,000.00 for the fisheries project at the farm

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is honored to partner with the St. Anthony's Farm Fishery project in Kachebere, Malawi, to make a lasting and meaningful impact. Malawi is one of the poorest country in the world. This brief report captures the farm's journey toward growth and sustainability:

**Cultivating Prosperity:** The farm has expanded its cultivated land from 61.28 to 82.03 acres, diversifying its crops and embracing innovations like drip irrigation to increase vegetable production and conserve water. The water retention ponds used for irrigation and supported by MLKF in prior years are vital for local farmers, ensuring a stable water supply and supporting income generation. These ponds have also been used to give opportunities to raise fish through fish farming. The local village community benefit from having fish in their meals.

**Empowering the Workforce:** The farm is powered by a committed team of twelve workers, all dedicated to its mission. Additionally, interns from Mwimba and Bunda Colleges of Agriculture gain hands-on experience alongside seasoned farmers, ensuring knowledge transfer and growth for the next generation of agriculturalists.

**Building a Thriving Ecosystem:** The farm's livestock



and the fisheries—including cattle, goats, poultry and fish—not only enrich the local protein market but also contribute to the farm's overall financial sustainability. This diversified approach reflects the farm's commitment to holistic and sustainable agricultural practices.

**A Vision for the Future:** With a clear aspiration to become the leading farm in Malawi by 2030, St. Anthony Farm's mission extends beyond agriculture. It's about supporting long-term financial sustainability, community empowerment, and shared progress.

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation is proud to support St. Anthony's Farm as it continues to build a sustainable and prosperous future for Kachebere community and beyond.